FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE FOREST SERVICE

History Line

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To: History Coordinators
Forest Service Personnel

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Grey Towers.--This chateauesque stone mansion overlooking Milford, Pennsylvania, was built in the 1880s by the celebrated architect Richard Morris Hunt for James W. Pinchot, father of Gifford Pinchot, who later made it his legal residence. In 1963 the Pinchot family donated the property, through the Conservation Foundation, to the Forest Service to house the Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies. After some years of changing directions and experiments with programs, the future of Grey Towers and of the Institute is assured with substantial appropriations by the Congress.

Grey Towers, a National Historic Landmark, will be managed by the Northeast Area Office, State and Private Forestry, as a historic site to enhance public understanding of its significance in American history. At the same time, the property will continue to house the Pinchot Institute, which as a result of studies to begin shortly will pursue expanding programs in human and natural resources programs and conservation education. This unique adaptive use of a major historic site has already called upon the talents of a wide range of personnel at various levels of the Forest Service organization. Public tours of the structures and grounds of the estate began this summer with a temporary VIS crew supervised by David Dahlen, detailed for the summer from Independence National Historical Park, National Park Service.

The History Section has let a contract to the Preservation/Design Group of Albany, New York, for a preliminary historic structure report to guide future planning, development, and interpretation at Grey Towers. John G. Waite, AIA, former Chief Historical Architect of New York's historic preservation program, is in general charge of the work and will handle the architectural and engineering investigations and recommendations on the historic structures. Architectural Historian Mary Ellen Gadski will prepare the history data section of the report, documenting the physical history of the structures and grounds and expanding our knowledge of the history of the Pinchot family. Building Conservator Douglas Clinton is responsible for identifying and developing solutions for any physical problems of the structures. Historical Landscape Architect Frederick D. Cawley will look to the problems of restoring and maintaining the estate grounds, while Peter Cook, Curator of the Bennington Museum, will undertake

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analyses of the historic artifacts and the general interpretation of the property. This is a varied and experienced group of specialists who are expected to give valuable advice on the future management of the property. This report is only preliminary, however, and will be followed with more detailed historical and architectural work in the future.

New Historian.--William C. Tweed joined the staff of the History Section in June 1977. Holding a Bachelors degree from the University of the Pacific and a PhD from Texas Christian University, Bill's varied career has included several seasons as a park interpreter at Sequoia National Park and a tour in the historic preservation programs of the Park Service's Western Region. He is a specialist in conservation and western history, and is the leading authority on the history of the Seri Indians of northwestern Mexico. He has several publications to his credit, as well as a number of cultural resources inventories and nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Bill is now preparing a history of rustic recreational architecture in the National Forests and parks.

History Book Reprinted.--The University of Washington Press will issue a second printing of Harold K. Steen's The U.S. Forest Service: A History, originally prepared under a cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and the Forest History Society. While the retail price is still $15.00, Forest Service employees and retirees can obtain a copy at a discount price of $12.00 by identifying themselves in their order to Pat Soden, Marketing Manager, University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington 98105. The new printing should be available by December 10, 1977.

Shelterbelt History.--Delayed by mechanical problems, Wilmon H. Droze's Trees, Prairies, and People: Tree Planting in the Plains States, will emerge from the Texas Woman's University Press on December 1, 1977. Prepared under a cooperative agreement between the University and the Forest Service, the book will be distributed to Forest Service offices and Federal depository libraries. Those desiring personal copies should order them ($9.50 plus $1.25 handling) from the Texas Woman's University Bookstore, Box 22969, TWU Station, Denton, Texas 76204.

Will Barnes Biography.--The Forest Service will publish in due course a short biography of Will Croft Barnes, Medal of Honor winner, noted author, pioneer of Forest Service grazing policies, and the man principally responsible for saving the Texas Longhorn from extinction. The book was written by Dr. Paul J. Scheips, Senior Historian of the U.S. Army Center of Military History. It is hoped that this volume will be the first in a series of biographies of figures important in the history of forest and range conservation.

Fire.--The History Section has entered a cooperative agreement with Dr. Stephen J. Pyne for a historical study of the scientific wisdom, cultural attitudes, political activities, policies, folklore, and programs directed toward wildfire on forest and rangelands in the 20th century. This interdisciplinary study will cover much more than an administrative history of fire-related activities, and it is supported jointly by the History

Section and the Divisions of Aviation and Fire Management, Cooperative Forest Fire Protection, and Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research. Holding a PhD in American Studies from the University of Texas, where he specialized in the history of science and American intellectual and cultural history, Pyne has completed 11 seasons of firefighting experience at North Rim, Grand Canyon National Park. Aside from his scholarly publications, Pyne is rated a fire boss and sector boss and is qualified as a plans chief. His rare combination of talents, combined with his interdisciplinary approach, should result in a unique and important contribution to the subject.

Communications Electronics.--The History Section has let a contract to the Denver Research Institute, University of Denver, for a history of communications electronics in the Forest Service. The Service's contributions to studies of radio wave propagation, the development of radio equipment, and to the war effort during World War II have recently attracted the attention of the Smithsonian Institution and historians of the military services. This study will be the first scholarly examination of the subject and should prompt the preservation of important documentary material and historic electronic equipment as well as set forth an interesting story. Gary C. Gray, who is completing requirements for the PhD in history at the University of Denver, will undertake the work.

User's Guide.--The History Section has recently published and distributed a User's Guide to the History Section Collection, prepared by David R. Kepley, formerly the Section's Archivist. Kepley, who is now at the Federal Records Center in Philadelphia, undertook a massive program this past year of organizing and culling the Section's substantial holdings in Forest Service and conservation history. It is hoped that the Section's collection of 51 file drawers of historical material, masses of serial publications, and library collection will be more useful to scholars and as a reference for the Forest Service. It is also hoped that the Guide may provide ideas for other Forest Service offices as they organize their historical collections. As the Guide reflects, the Section's holdings are a necessary starting place for research on the history of the Service, and include important material on related subjects. The collection of early publications in the natural sciences is particularly important and convenient. Copies of the Guide are available from the History Section. It will be revised periodically as the collection grows.

Archival Transfers.--The History Section has recently transferred a volume of materials to the National Archives. Most important are 34 feet of records generated by the Forest Service during its participation in the Federal Interagency River Basin Development Commission, under the Flood Control Act of 1936. That law required the Forest Service to conduct preliminary surveys, survey work outlines, and final surveys of selected river basins to determine what measures needed to be taken to protect those areas from flood damage. The records transferred include signed copies of the reports, covering several dozen projects,

1938-1950, as well as memoranda, correspondence, and minutes of FIARBC meetings. Also being processed for transfer are one folder of correspondence between the Forest Service and the Advertising Council, 1951-54, relating to efforts to develop an advertising campaign against water pollution, and a folder of Leon Kneipp's files on land acquisition activities, 1926-38, under the Clarke-McNary Act.

Personal Papers.--The papers of the late Paul Roberts, whose Forest Service career included supervision of the shelterbelt project, have been donated to the Nebraska Historical Society by his widow. Personal papers of Austin Cary, which came into the possession of the History Section some time ago after their accidental discovery at the Northeastern Station, have been transferred by the Section to the University of Florida where they will lodge with the Cary Collection.

The History Section is anxious to locate and arrange for the preservation of the papers of persons important in the history of the Forest Service, the natural sciences, and conservation generally. Persons holding or aware of such collections are encouraged to contact the Section. Depending on the collection and the will of the donor, the Section will try to arrange for transfer to a depository where the papers will be available to scholars, or add the collection to the Section's own holdings, where they will be safeguarded and available for research. People who have enjoyed long careers in conservation, or their relatives, may not always realize the importance of their own papers. Preservation of such valuable material in an established library or manuscripts collection not only insures that the record of the individual will be remembered, but may also prove of great value to current scholars. For those sensitive to certain subjects, most depositories will accept reasonable restrictions on use or copying of personal papers and will even close collections for a period of years, as requested by donors.

Historic Preservation.--There is an enormous volume of publications and advisory material appearing on the preservation, restoration, and management of cultural (historic, archeological, architectural) resources, too much to set forth in one place. However, there are some publications and organizations that can be of particular value for cultural resources specialists. It would be worthwhile to contact the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, regarding their publications programs and advisory services. Two divisions of particular help to Federal agencies are the Technical Preservation Services Division and the Interagency Archeological Services Division. Among recent publications of OAHP are the periodical, 11593, a series of Preservation Briefs, occasional bibliographies on preservation subjects, and a number of special publications comprising the growing Historic Preservation Handbook. Look especially for Cyclical Maintenance for Historic Buildings.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has continued to expand its services to private and public agencies, important among

them being the Preservation Bookshop's growing store of available publications from dozens of sources. Contact the Preservation Bookshop, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, for a copy of the latest catalogue. Information on field services, training programs, and other activities of the Trust can be obtained at the same address, as can individual or office membership. The American Association for State and Local History, 1315 Eighth Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, is a good bet for membership for anyone working in history, historic preservation, or the operation of a museum or historic site. AASLH also has an active technical publications program, and sponsors a number of workshops and training programs.

A surprising degree of helpful information can be obtained from the Old House Journal, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, New York 11217. The subscription rate is $12.00 per year, and includes discounts on a number of other publications. The Association for Preservation Technology, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W6, Canada, has just issued a new list of its publications, which include a quarterly Bulletin, a monthly newsletter, and a number of special productions. Membership in this U.S.-Canadian organization can be extremely valuable for cultural resources personnel, since it is the only one devoted strictly to the technical aspects of identifying and preserving cultural resources. Membership is $20.00 per year. Incidentally, APT will shortly publish a checklist of Forest Service publications before 1936 on the properties, technology, utilization, and preservation of wood, compiled by Dave Clary, Head of the History Section.

The History Section has already arranged for distribution to regional cultural resources specialists of publications in history, archeology, and historic architecture by the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Management Division. Already distributed are works on the effects of inundation on archeological sites, remote sensing techniques in archeology, historic Appalachian farmsteads, and most recently photogrammetric recording of cultural resources. Persons interested in this publications series should contact Douglas Caldwell, Cultural Resources Management Division, National Park Service, Interior Building, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Historic preservationists will be interested in two publications of the Headquarters, Department of the Army. They may request copies of the two Technical Manuals, TM-5-801-1, "Historic Preservation: Administrative Procedures" (November 1975), and TM-5-801-2, "Historic Preservation: Maintenance Procedures" (February 1977), from the U.S. Army AG Publications Center, 2800 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21220.

Region 8 and Pisgah National Forest have contracted for restorations of a steam log loader and a rare model Climax logging locomotive, on display at the Cradle of Forestry. The work will be done by Robert L. Johnson of Rossville, Georgia, the foremost preservationist working on historic steam machinery.

The Nezperce National Forest is restoring the log structures of the historic Adams Ranger Station, one of which reputedly dates to a mining camp of the 1860s. A large

barn at the station once housed 45 mules and horses used in the Forest's fire control program.

The November 1977 Periodical of the Council on Abandoned Military Posts will carry Dave Clary's article, "Historic Preservation on the Federal Lands," adapted from a speech he delivered at a conference last Spring.

Histories in the Field.--Forest Archeologist Joseph B. Janes has drafted a history of the Gila National Forest to the year 1954. According to Forest Supervisor Robert M. Williamson, the history is in a looseleaf form to allow for addition of material in the future.... Sharon Bass, a University of Texas graduate student, has been working with Information Officer Billy E. Page on a history of the Ozark National Forest, including a catalogue of the Forest's photographic collection and a permanent interpretive exhibit. Ms. Bass, who conducted part of her research in the History Section collection, is preparing for her masters thesis a biography of James Maurice Waite, a district ranger who compiled a substantial photographic collection and conducted a traveling fire prevention campaign during his service, 1908-40....Ted Navratil, Chief of VIS for Region 4, is preparing a history of his Region for a masters thesis in history at Utah State University.... The Pacific Southwest Station has entered into cooperative agreements with the Forest History Society for oral history projects related to entomological research and the development of managerial systems in the Forest Service....The Lolo National Forest is gathering historical data on the use of horses and mules by the Forest Service and on the old Nine Mile Remount Depot, with the assistance of Jane Benson, a University of Montana graduate student....The Boise Fire Control Center reports that it is considering a proposed history of fire danger rating systems....Region 5 is looking for a volunteer historian/archivist to organize its collection of historical materials. Don Bielsfield is the Region's history contact.... Henry E. Haefner's "Some Reminiscences of an Early Forester on the Siskiyou National Forest," in revised form, appears in the March 1975 Oregon Historical Quarterly.... Paul Felton of Audubon, Pennsylvania, is preparing a biography of Reginald D. Forbes, first director of both the Southern and the Allegheny Forest Experiment Stations.

We Can Help.--The History Section can provide a range of reference and advisory services for any office of the Forest Service. The interests of the Section go beyond administrative history to encourage special studies of particular application to current problems. Possible work might include fire histories of specified areas, climate histories, histories of diseases or insects, and the histories of ecosystems--including human occupation, but the documentable history of natural resources as well. Any office desiring advice or assistance on developing projects, including preparation of contracts or location of qualified contractors, or in assessing historical needs, should feel free to communicate with the Section.

Forest History Society.--Those interested in the history of forest conservation will have a natural affinity for membership in the Forest History Society, Box 1581, Santa Cruz, California 95061. The Society publishes the Journal of Forest History and maintains an archive and reference service. Membership is $12.00 per year.

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